

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02

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FM AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 235

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MATAMOROS 0098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HUNGER STRIKE BY AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: STATE 214845 AND PREVIOUS

1. RESULTS OF SURVEY OF THE PRISONERS IN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AT THIS TIME NONE ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING HUNGER STRIKE. PRISON BY PRISON ACCOUNT FOLLOWS.

2. MATAMOROS - ON AUGUST 30 CONSOFF SPOKE WITH SIXTEEN AMERICANS INCARCERATED IN LOCAL JAIL. EIGHT REFUSED BE INTERVIEWED. THESE INMATES SELDOM WISH TO BE SEEN BY CONSOFF. OF THOSE INTERVIEWED ONLY ONE, THOMAS ERDOS, ADMITTED HAVING RECEIVED UNSIGNED LETTER WRITTEN ON MEXICO CITY HOTEL STATIONARY BUT MAILED FROM SALINAS, CALIF. EXHORTING HIM TO JOIN HUNGER STRIKE. FROM TENOR OF CONVERSATION WITH ALL PRISONERS CONSOFF BELIEVES NONE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING STRIKE, INCLUDING THOSE NOT SEEN.

3. REYNOSA - ON AUGUST 26 PRINCIPAL OFFICER VISITED THE FIVE PRISONERS IN REYNOSA. EMBASSY'S 10973 OF AUG 26 ARRIVED AFTER CONSUL HAD DEPARTED THEREFORE HE DID NOT QUESTION PRISONERS RE THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, FROM TALK WITH EACH PRISONER WITH WHOM CONSUL HAS VERY GOOD RAPPORT, HE FEELS SURE THEY WOULD HAVE MENTIONED STRIKE IF THEY HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF IT. FURTHERMORE, OF THE TWO PRISONERS SERVING SENTENCE ONE IS ABOUT TO BE RELEASED BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED

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CREDIT FOR WORK AND GOOD CONDUCT, THE OTHER IS NOT MILITANT

TYPE ALWAYS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND RECOGNIZES FACT THAT GOOD BEHAVIOR WILL HELP HIM OBTAIN EARLY RELEASE. PRISON OFFICIALS APPRAISED OF IMPENDING PROBLEM AND PROMISED KEEP CONSULATE INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

4. TAMPICO - ON AUGUST 30 CONSULATE'S W/W CONTACT, AMCIT MARTHA TSCHUDIN (WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS US CONSULAR AGENT) VISITED THE SEVEN INMATES THERE. NONE ADMITTED HAVING RECEIVED LETTERS RE HUNGER STRIKE AND ALL TOLD MRS. TSCHUDIN (WHO DAILY TAKES FOOD TO THEM) THEY NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH STRIKE. MRS TSCHUDIN WILL REPORT TO CONSULATE ANY CHANGE.

5. CIUDAD VICTORIA - ON AUGUST 30 CONSUL HAD TELECON WITH ROBERT MALVAIS-BRADY AKA: ENRIQUE MALVAES. SUBJECT SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO BE BOTHERED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES BECAUSE HE IS A MEXICAN CITIZEN, THAT HE WAS BORN IN EL CHAMIZAL (THAT AREA IN EL PASO, TEXAS THAT REVERTED TO MEXICO DURING THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION) AND THAT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH MEXICAN-U.S. TREATY DATED 1909 HE IS A MEXICAN CITIZEN." AFTER HAVING SAID THAT SUBJECT HUNG UP. (PLEASE SEE MONTERREY 0943 DEC 75) NO OTHER AMCITS IN THAT JAIL.

6. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.
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